A method of detecting the relative movement between first and second 16. bers from a close position where the members are adjacent, and an open position where the members are separated, said method comprising the steps of:

installing a switch assembly on said first member, said switch assembly including a first elongated switch element, a second switch element disposed in spaced relationship to the first element and a ferromagnetic body located adjacent the first and second switch elements;

when said members are in said close position, using a magnetic field of sufficient strength to shift said ferromagnetic body in a switch-closed orientation in simultaneous contact with said first and second switch elements;

in response to relative movement of the members from said close to said open position, magnetically shifting said ferromagnetic body to a switch-open orientation out of contact with said second switch element; and

using an alarm control to generate a signal when said ferromagnetic body is shifted.

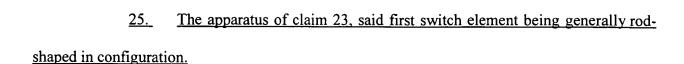
The method of claim 16, including the further step of using a magnet located 17. in said second member to provide said magnetic field of sufficient strength.

The method of claim 16, said first switch element being in a generally upright orientation, with said second switch element spaced below the first switch element, said maintaining step comprising the step of maintaining the ferromagnetic body in a lower switch-closed orientation, said magnetic shifting step comprising the step of shifting the ferromagnetic body upwardly to said switch-open orientation.

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- 19. The method of claim 18, including the step of shifting said body upwardly using a retraction magnet located above said first element.
- 20. The method of claim 16, said first switch element comprising an elongated, rod-like member.
- 21. The method of claim 16, said second switch element being generally disc-shaped.
 - 22. The method of claim 16, said body being spherical in shape.
- 23. A magnetic switch apparatus for detecting relative movement between first and second members from a close position where the members are adjacent, and an open position where the members are separated, said apparatus comprising a switch assembly for mounting to the first member, including a first, elongated switch element, a second switch element in spaced relationship to said first switch element, and a magnet assembly including a ferromagnetic body adjacent said first and second switch elements, said assembly operable to shift said ferromagnetic body in a switch-closed orientation in simultaneous contact with said first and second switch elements when said members are in said close position, and to shift said ferromagnetic body to a switch-open orientation out of contact with said second switch element in response to relative movement of the members to said open position.
 - 24. The apparatus of claim 23, said body being spherical.



- 26. The apparatus of claim 23, said second switch element being generally disc-shaped.
- 27. The apparatus of claim 26, said second switch element including a contact surface presenting a generally reversed conically shaped configuration.
- 28. The apparatus of claim 23, said magnet assembly further including a first magnet disposed above said first contact, and a second magnet for mounting to the second member.
- 29. The apparatus of claim 23, said first switch element being in a generally upright orientation, with said second switch element disposed below the first switch element.

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